

Amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 line 8 cancel "so that information conveyed by said code may be interpreted"

line 9 change "means for scanning" to - a scanner arranged to scan -,
cancel "the"

line 10 cancel "so that said scanned pill may be identified"

line 11 cancel "according to said interpreted information, and its distribution thereby controlled".

Claims 3-7 line 1, change "The" to - A --

Claim 8 line 1, change "having a machine readable code thereon" to - according to claim 1 --

Claims 10 and 12 line 1, change "8" to - 1 --

Add the following claims:

-- 40. A method of obtaining information concerning a pill, comprising the steps

of:

scanning a bar code on a surface of the pill to obtain a result;

accessing a database in response to the result being obtained from the
scanning of the bar code;

searching the database for a correlation with the result;

making an indication based on the correlation to provide information
concerning the pill; and

making a determination with respect to suitability for administration of the pill based on the information. --

-- 41. A method as in claim 40, further comprising:

ascertaining from the information a likelihood as to whether the pill has been subjected to any one of tampering, unauthorized repackaging and unauthorized gray market entry. --

-- 42. A method as in claim 40, further comprising the step of detecting a presence or absence of a further code that is incorporated within the bar code, and based on the detecting, making a further indication.

-- 43. A method as in claim 40, comprising the steps of:

in response to the determination being favorable, administering the pill for consumption. --

-- 44. A method as in claim 40, further comprising the step of:

comparing the information with previously retrieved information to ascertain whether a combination of pills taken one after the other may cause ill effects, the indication reflecting what was ascertained from the comparing. --

– 45. A method as in claim 40, further comprising the steps of:

clocking a time of day as the scanning occurs; and

storing in memory the time of day and the information in a manner that associates them together in response to completion of the steps of retrieving and clocking. –

-- 46. A method as in claim 45, further comprising the steps of:

making an indication that signifies whether an efficacy condition of the pill is effective or ineffective;

further clocking a time of day corresponding to when the indication was made; and further storing the further clocking of the time of day in association with the efficacy condition. --

-- 47. A method as in claim 46, further comprising the steps of further scanning a further bar code associated with a nutritional substance to be consumed, accessing a further database in response to the further scanning of the bar code; finding a further correlation to the scanned further bar code in a further database by making a further comparison; retrieving further information from the further database that is associated with the further correlation in response to the step of finding the further correlation; and

further clocking a further time of day corresponding to when the scanned further bar code of the nutritional substance was made, storing the further time of day and the further information in association with each other. --

-- 48. A method as in claim 40, further comprising the steps of
scanning a further bar code on a container of the pill;
comparing the scanned further bar code and the result for a match;
making an indication of the match in response to completion of the step of
comparing. --

-- 49. A method as in claim 40, further comprising:
prior to scanning, selecting the pill to be dispensed from a dispensing machine,
obtaining authorization information to authorize dispensing the pill from the
dispensing machine,
verifying the authorization information; and
dispensing the selected pill provided the authorization information was verified. --

-- 50. An apparatus to dispense pills, comprising:
a dispensing machine configured to obtain authorization information to
authorize dispensing a pill,
a verifier of the authorization information;
a selector of the pill to be dispensed,
a scanner of a bar code on the selected pill, and